

2001 VEGETABLE, MELON, AND TARO HIGHLIGHTS

VEGETABLES AND MELONS

Farm value of vegetables and melons was estimated at a record high \$48.0 million in 2001, up 7 percent from 2000. Farm production declined 2 percent to 94.6 million pounds.

Leading all individual vegetables and melons in farm value were tomato growers with a record high \$9.3 million in 2001, up 8 percent from 2000. A 26 percent increase in production and a 6 percent increase in the average farm price enabled dry onion growers to move into second with a record \$4.1 million in revenues, up 33 percent from 2000.



Tomatoes (field-grown and greenhouse combined) also led all individual vegetables and melons for the third consecutive year in production with a record-high harvest of 17.5 million pounds in 2001, up 6 percent from 2000. Head cabbage was a distant second with production estimated at 12.5 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2000.

The combined category of "Other Vegetables and Melons" made significant gains in both farm revenues and production. Farm value was estimated at \$11.9 million for 2001, up 31 percent from the previous year. Production was at a record-high 12.3 million pounds, up 16 percent from 2000. This category contains more than 70 different kinds of vegetables and melons including such high-value crops as sprouts, strawberries, organic vegetables, baby vegetables, ethnic vegetables, and specialty salad mix greens.

TARO

Hawaii taro production is estimated at 6.4 million pounds for 2001, down 9 percent from 2000. The combined farm price for poi and Chinese taro averaged 53 cents per pound in 2001, unchanged for the fourth consecutive year. Farm revenues totaled \$3.4 million, down 9 percent from 2000.

Taro for processing totaled 6.2 million pounds in 2001, down 9 percent from 2000 and the first decline in four years. Total acreage in poi taro is estimated at 420 acres in 2001, down 2 percent from 2000. All the reduction in acreage occurred on the Big Island which saw poi taro acreage fall from 80 acres in 2000 to 70 acres in 2001. Farm prices for poi taro averaged 53.2 cents per pound in 2001, down slightly from the record high 53.3 cents per pound average of 2000.

Statewide acreage in Chinese taro declined to 20 acres, down 50 percent from 2000 and the lowest total in 17 years. A steady decline in Chinese taro acreage started in 1996 due to persistent problems with taro root aphids, dry weather, and relatively low prices.